Environment & Energy

Washington, Oregon Submit Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub Plans

By Zach Bright

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- Plan led by public-private partnership across the states
- States seek share of agency money for green hydrogen

Oregon and Washington submitted a regional hydrogen hub proposal on Monday as a prelude to a final bid for a share of an \$8 billion pot that the Department of Energy will allocate to such projects.

Behind the hub is the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association (PNWH2)—a coalition of government, environmental, private sector, and tribal groups. The proposed hub would generate zero-carbon "green" hydrogen from renewable energy sources.

"We aim to lead," Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) said. "The Pacific Northwest unquestionably occupies a prime position for developing and deploying a green hydrogen hub capable of tackling the biggest challenges."

Those challenges include decarbonizing industrial sectors such as heavy transportation, aviation, and steel. Hydrogen has drawn interest as a versatile energy source that doesn't release carbon in hard-to-decarbonize industries.

The hub would draw on the region's 81,000 megawatt hours of renewable energy (primarily hydropower), union labor, transit providers, and colleges and universities for the build, according to a release from PNWH2.

States in the Northeast, Midwest, and American Heartland have already filed regional concept papers for the Energy Department's money, which comes from last year's bipartisan infrastructure law (Public Law 117-58).

Concept papers are due by Nov. 7, and full applications to access federal funding are due by April 7, 2023.

The Energy Department is seeking to select six to 10 hydrogen hubs for funding to attain a nationwide goal of generating 10 million annual metric tons of hydrogen by 2030 and 20 million by 2040.

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